

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS FOR MYCOBACTERIAL EXAMINATION

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

NOTE: If the specimen container is received leaking, not properly labeled, test requisition not completed or the specimen label does not match the test requisition, the specimen will not be tested.

### SPUTUM

1. An early morning sample is desired. The specimen should be coughed up from deep within the chest - it should **not** be saliva from the mouth.
2. After coughing, patient should hold the sterile tube up to the mouth and expel the sputum into the tube. Fill the tube about one-half full, if possible. **Do not to get sputum on the outside of the tube.**

### URINE

1. An early morning, cleanly voided, mid-stream sample is desired (Instructions for collection should be given by physician or county health department).
2. Do not fill the tube more than one-half full.

### GASTRIC SPECIMENS

1. Neutralize to pH 7.
2. **Important** - This type of specimen must be delivered to the laboratory within 72 hours.

Note: Gastric specimens will be discarded without being tested if they are received greater than 72 hours after collection or if the pH is less than 6 or greater than 8.

**OTHER TYPES OF SPECIMENS** - Consult your physician, county health department or the Michigan Department of Community Health, Division of Infectious Diseases at 517-335-8067.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPECIMEN SUBMISSION

- A. Screw cap on the tube as tightly and evenly as possible. **Tape** the cap on the tube to secure it in place.
- B. **Label** tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the test requisition.
- C. Record the name/unique identifier on the tube/requisition for your records. You will use it to link the specimen to the patient.
- D. Place properly labeled tube, **wrapped in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue and enclosed in the plastic bag provided**, into aluminum screw-capped can and tighten the cap securely.
- E. Wrap **completed** test requisition around **outside** of aluminum screw-capped can.
- F. Place aluminum can with **completed** test requisition into screw-capped cardboard container and **secure cap with tape**.
- G. **Complete** and apply the return address, diagnostic specimen label to cardboard container and ship immediately by the most convenient means available (i.e., a courier, bus, U.S. First Class, Priority or Express mail etc.) to the Lansing laboratory.

**NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.**